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PROGRESS REPORT ON NORTH ATLANTIC SPECIES NAMES  
THEIR CODING, GROUPING AND REARRANGEMENT FOR  
STATISTICAL PURPOSES

by

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Statistics in the North Atlantic Area

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Continuing Working Party, at its Fifth Session held at Aberdeen, Scotland, from 10 - 14 April 1967, reviewed the draft version of the FAO Bulletin of Fishery Statistics subtitled "North Atlantic Species Names" submitted as document STANA:5/67/4C (FAO Fisheries Circular No. 99). It confirmed the view expressed at its Fourth Session that this proposed Bulletin of Fishery Statistics would be most useful for fishery workers concerned with North Atlantic fishery statistics; and to the end of further extending the STANA reporting system, it considered it most desirable to have such a document in a regular series for purposes of reference in the preparation of notes, instructions and reports on fishery statistics concerned with these North Atlantic species.
- 1.2 The Continuing Working Party reconfirmed the recommendation of the Fourth Session (1965) "that FAO should publish a Bulletin of Fishery Statistics in which should be tabulated the scientific, English, Spanish and French common names of all species appearing in the tables in the publications of ICES, ICNAF and FAO".
- 1.3 The Continuing Working Party, after reviewing the draft version of the Bulletin, recommended:
- (a) that it would be useful if the identifying numbers used against items in the draft OECD Dictionary were carried into Table A of this FAO Bulletin;
  - (b) that the scientific names of the fish should go on the extreme left-hand side of all tables in this publication (i.e. as the first column);
  - (c) that a full check of the names against the ICES, ICNAF and OECD lists should be made.
2. Work under progress: current activities of FAO in this field
- 2.1 Identification and classification of species by groups according to fishing areas  
FAO is at present engaged in an extensive and thorough review of national publications to establish the correct scientific names of the principal species (statistical categories) for which statistics are collected or should be

collected by major fishing areas. The work is being carried out, for each species category, on a fishing area basis with a country breakdown.

It will therefore be possible to show a new tabular arrangement of the catch data now appearing in Section 'C' of the Yearbook, to be broken down by:

- (a) species categories (arranged within the existing groupings of species)
- (b) major fishing areas, and
- (c) countries.

- 2.2 The FAO Secretariat is at present also working on the preparation of lists of the statistical categories (which could be either species, genera or families) for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, for the Southwest Atlantic, for the Southeast Atlantic, the Eastern-central Atlantic, the Western-central Atlantic, and the Eastern and Western Indian Ocean. These activities would therefore cover all fishing areas for which fishery commissions or committees or other sea area bodies might be established, either by conventions adopted by conferences of plenipotentiaries or by other means available to FAO.
- 2.3 The North Atlantic list would require significant additions in view of the inclusion of a new sub-area (6) as part of the ICNAF complex of fishing areas. Some of these are species already covered by ICNAF, but others have not appeared to a significant extent in the original five sub-areas.
- 2.4 The FAO Secretariat is also proceeding with work on the development of appropriate codes for the species categories within the divisions and groups of the International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants. It is intended that this coding system would be suitable for computer use, and by postponing the finalization of the work on the proposed Bulletin of North Atlantic species names, to eventually include the codes for this North Atlantic species in its final version.
- 2.5 In view of the foregoing remarks, it seems advisable to postpone the publication of a Bulletin of Fishery Statistics for species caught in the North Atlantic, as the finalization of such a Bulletin would greatly benefit from the general research work at present being done and from the experience which will be gained in the preparation of species lists for other fishing areas.